AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A display screen management apparatus comprising:

a saving section for saving screen information <u>and screen resources </u>about the plurality of screens; and

a display screen management unit comprising a computer program recorded on a computer-readable storage medium that causes the display screen management apparatus to execute at least switching and displaying of a plurality of screens on a display device by screen transition, the computer program of the display screen management unit comprising:

an instruction section operable to provide an instruction to display one of the plurality of screens as a switching target screen over at least another one of the plurality of screens currently displayed in response to an external request;

a screen control section operable to control a display on the display device in accordance with the instruction from the instruction section; and

a screen discard determination section operable to compare the currently displayed screen with the switching target screen indicated by the instruction section, based on the screen information saved in the saving section, to determine whether or not the currently displayed screen is to be discarded<u> such that when all or a part of the currently displayed screen is displayed simultaneously with the switching target screen the currently displayed screen is not to be discarded, and when the currently displayed screen is completely hidden by the switching target screen the currently displayed screen is to be discarded,</u>

wherein, when the screen discard determination section determines that the currently displayed screen is to be discarded, the screen control section discards <u>a screen resource and </u>information about the currently displayed screen from the saving section.

2. (Currently Amended) The display screen management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the saving section includes:

a screen information saving section for saving information about the currently displayed screen and the switching target screen; and

a screen resource saving section for saving ~~a~~ the screen resource for each of the plurality of screens to be displayed on the display device, and

wherein, when instructed to display the switching target screen over the currently displayed screen by the instruction section, the screen control section is further operable to generate the screen resource for the switching target screen, to save the generated screen resource into the screen resource saving section, and to request the screen discard determination section to determine whether or not the currently displayed screen is to be discarded.

3. (Previously Presented) The display screen management apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, when the screen discard determination section determines that the currently displayed screen is to be discarded, the screen control section discards the screen resource for the screen determined to be discarded, from the screen resource saving section.

4. (Previously Presented) The display screen management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the saving section includes:

an initial screen information saving section for saving initial screen information; and

a screen information saving section for saving the currently displayed screen information and the switching target screen information,

wherein, when providing an instruction to display the switching target screen over the currently displayed screen, the instruction section is further operable to read out initial screen information about the switching target screen from the initial screen information saving section, and notifies the screen control section of the read initial screen information, and

wherein the screen control section saves the read initial screen information as the switching target screen information into the screen information saving section.

5. (Previously Presented) The display screen management apparatus according to claim 4, wherein, when the screen discard determination section determines that the currently displayed screen is to be discarded, the screen control section is further operable to discard screen information about the screen determined to be discarded, from the screen information saving section.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The display screen management apparatus according to ~~claim 6~~claim 1, wherein the screen information includes information indicating a screen size, and

wherein the screen discard determination section is further operable to use the screen size indicating information to determine whether or not the currently displayed screen is to be discarded.

8. (Currently Amended) The display screen management apparatus according to ~~claim 6~~claim 1, wherein the screen information includes information indicating a screen position, and

the screen discard determination section is further operable to use the screen position indicating information to determine whether or not the currently displayed screen is to be discarded.

9. (Currently Amended) The display screen management apparatus according to ~~claim 6~~claim 1, wherein the screen information includes residence information indicating whether a screen is resident or non-resident, and

wherein, upon determining, based on the residence information, that the currently displayed screen is resident, the screen discard determination section is further operable to determine that the currently displayed screen is not to be discarded.

10. (Currently Amended) The display screen management apparatus according to ~~claim 6~~claim 1, wherein the screen information includes a display time from when a displayed

one of the plurality of screens is displayed to when the displayed one of the plurality of screens goes to a non-displayed state, and

wherein, upon determining, based on the display time, that the switching target screen display time is shorter than a predetermined time, the screen discard determination section is operable to determine that the currently displayed screen is not to be ~~be~~ <u>be</u> discarded.

11. (Currently Amended) The display screen management apparatus according to ~~claim 6~~<u>claim 1</u>, wherein the screen information includes mask information about at least one of the plurality of screens, and

wherein the screen discard determination section is further operable to use the mask information to determine whether or not the currently displayed screen is to be discarded.

12. (Previously Presented) The display screen management apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a registration section operable to register the initial screen information saved in the initial screen information saving section via the screen control section into the screen information saving section,

wherein the registration section is further operable to notify the screen control section of all initial screen information saved in the initial screen information saving section, and

wherein the screen control section saves the initial screen information notified by the registration section as the screen information into the screen information saving section.

13. (Previously Presented) The display screen management apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

a communications section operable to obtain application data including the initial screen information via an external network; and

a screen information extraction section operable to extract the initial screen information obtained by the communications section,

wherein the registration section is further operable to notify the screen control section of the initial screen information extracted by the screen information extraction section, and

wherein the screen control section saves the initial screen information into the screen information saving section.

14. (Currently Amended) A display screen management method for switching and displaying a plurality of screens on a display device by screen transition, comprising:

providing an instruction to display one of the plurality of screens as a switching target screen over at least another one of the plurality of screens currently displayed in response to an external request;

controlling a display on the display device in accordance with the instruction from said providing an instruction operation;

determining whether or not the currently displayed screen is to be discarded by comparing the currently displayed screen with an indicated switching target screen based on previously saved screen information, such that when all or a part of the currently displayed screen is displayed simultaneously with the indicated switching target screen the currently displayed screen is not to be discarded, and when the currently displayed screen is completely hidden by the indicated switching target screen the currently displayed screen is to be discarded; and

discarding information about the currently displayed screen when said determining operation determines that the currently displayed screen is to be discarded.

15. (Currently Amended) The display screen management method according to claim 14, wherein, in said discarding information about the currently displayed screen, a screen resource for the currently displayed screen determined in said determining to be discarded, is discarded.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium having recorded thereon a program, which is executed by a display screen management apparatus, for switching and displaying a plurality of screens on a display device by screen transaction,

wherein the display screen management apparatus includes a saving section for saving screen information <u>and screen resources</u> about the plurality of screens, and

the program causes the display screen management apparatus to execute at least the following:

providing an instruction to display one of the plurality of screens as a switching target screen over at least another one of the plurality of screens currently displayed in response to an external request;

controlling a display on the display device in accordance with the instruction from said providing an instruction<u> operation</u>;

comparing the currently displayed screen with the switching target screen indicated by said providing an instruction <u>operation</u> based on the screen information<u> and screen resources</u> saved in the saving section, to determine whether or not the currently displayed screen is to be discarded<u>, such that when all or a part of the currently displayed screen is displayed simultaneously with the switching target screen the currently displayed screen is not to be discarded, and when the currently displayed screen is completely hidden by the switching target screen the currently displayed screen is to be discarded</u>; and

discarding information <u>and a screen resource</u> about the currently displayed screen from the saving section when said comparing determines that the currently displayed screen is to be discarded.